



State of Wisconsin  
Department of Workforce Development  
Office of Economic Advisors

JUNE 2005

# WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS FOR MILWAUKEE/WOW COUNTIES

## MILWAUKEE, WASHINGTON, OZAUKEE AND WAUKESHA COUNTIES

### METRO AREA UNEMPLOYMENT RATE EDGES UP SLIGHTLY IN MAY

**Milwaukee County's** preliminary unemployment rate in May was 5.9 percent. May's figure rose two-tenths of a percentage point compared to April's final rate of 5.7 percent. This is the county's lowest rate for the month of May since 2001. Compared to one year ago, the county's rate is lower by five-tenths of a percentage point and its labor force has 500 fewer em-

ployed and more than 2,600 fewer unemployed residents.

**Washington County's** current unemployment rate is 4.0 percent, which is lower than April's by a single tenth of a percentage point. It is lower than May 2004 by four-tenths. Washington's labor force has declined slightly by about 75 employed and over 300 fewer un-

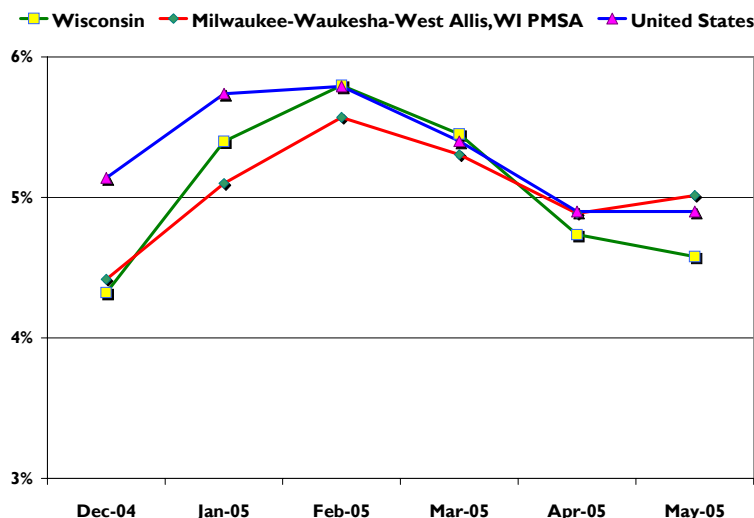
employed.

**Ozaukee County's** unemployment rate jumped up two-tenths of a percentage point to 3.6 percent in May. The rate is unchanged from what it was one year ago. Ozaukee's rate was the lowest of the four metropolitan counties.

The May unemployment rate in **Waukesha County** was 3.8 percent, which was up slightly over the month by one-tenth of a point. Like the majority of Wisconsin's counties, its unemployment rate is lower than what it was one year ago. Its rate last May was 4.2 percent. Annually, its labor force has over 1,000 fewer participants. There are over 200 fewer employed and 800 fewer unemployed residents.

The labor force in the **Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis Metropolitan Statistical Area** had a preliminary, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 5.0 percent in May. This represented a small increase over the month of one-

### Six-Month Unemployment Rate Watch



source: DWD and U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

### Civilian Labor Force Estimates for Milwaukee-Waukesha MSA counties: May 2005

	Wisconsin			Milwaukee-Waukesha-W. Allis MSA			Milwaukee County		
	May-05	Apr-05	May-04	May-05	Apr-05	May-04	May-05	Apr-05	May-04
Labor force	3,032,366	3,031,761	3,049,611	792,479	792,685	797,121	463,004	462,873	466,139
Employed	2,893,532	2,888,211	2,902,939	752,740	753,945	753,580	435,835	436,532	436,321
Unemployed	138,834	143,550	146,672	39,739	38,740	43,541	27,169	26,341	29,818
% Unemployed	4.6%	4.7%	4.8%	5.0%	4.9%	5.5%	5.9%	5.7%	6.4%
	Washington County			Ozaukee County			Waukesha County		
	May-05	Apr-05	May-04	May-05	Apr-05	May-04	May-05	Apr-05	May-04
Labor force	70,463	70,670	70,855	47,434	47,433	47,496	211,577	211,707	212,629
Employed	67,640	67,748	67,715	45,750	45,823	45,801	203,515	203,841	203,742
Unemployed	2,823	2,922	3,140	1,684	1,610	1,695	8,062	7,866	8,887
% Unemployed	4.0%	4.1%	4.4%	3.6%	3.4%	3.6%	3.8%	3.7%	4.2%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and DWD, Local Area Unemployment Statistics. Figures are not seasonally adjusted and current month's data are preliminary

## Industry Employment Estimates for the Milwaukee-Waukesha MSA: May 2005

Place of Work Employment in 1,000's	Wisconsin			Milw'kee-Wauk-W. Allis MSA		
	May 2005	Change since April 2005	Change since May 2004	May 2005	Change since April 2005	Change since May 2004
All Industries	2,844.5	37.2	27.0	846.5	9.7	12.5
Construction/Natural Resources	139.0	9.4	5.4	36.8	2.9	3.0
Manufacturing	503.3	5.1	2.9	134.8	0.1	0.7
Retail Trade	312.7	3.3	-3.3	81.1	0.3	-1.6
Wholesale Trade	115.9	0.4	2.3	39.8	-0.1	0.9
Transport/Warehouse/Utilities	109.3	1.2	1.5	30.5	0.0	0.1
Financial Activities	157.7	0.4	-0.5	56.3	0.4	-1.2
Education and Health Services	384.4	1.4	10.0	134.7	0.8	3.5
Leisure and Hospitality	262.0	14.7	5.7	68.7	2.9	1.1
Info./Prof./Bus.and Other Services	437.3	1.4	2.3	171.2	2.4	7.0
Information	50.6	-0.1	0.8	18.3	-0.1	-0.3
Professional and Business Services	251.7	1.7	1.2	111.5	2.3	7.2
Other Services	135.0	-0.2	0.3	41.4	0.2	0.1
Fed/State/Local Government	422.9	-0.1	0.7	92.6	0.0	-1.0

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and DWD, Current Employment Statistics. Figures are rounded and may not sum to total. Current month's figures are preliminary

tenth of a percentage point. The monthly increase in the rate is not unheard of between April and May as this month can experience slight declines in its number of employed usually coupled with a slight increase in its unemployed. Any change in the rate between April and May is usually in the range of plus or minus one-tenth of a percentage point.

Annually, the metro area rate has continued its lower stride. It is currently five-tenths of a percentage point lower than it was in May 2004. Its labor force shows 800 fewer employed and about 3,800 fewer unemployed. This is the lowest unemployment rate for the month of May since the mark of 4.3 percent was measured in May 2001.

The total number of nonfarm wage and salary jobs in the **Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis Metropolitan Statistical Area** totaled 846,500 in May. This total represented a monthly rise of 9,700 jobs. The bulk of this seasonal increase was centered in three sectors: construction (+2,900 jobs), professional and business services (+2,300 jobs) and leisure and hospitality (+2,900 jobs). Manufacturing employment posted a gain of 100 jobs. The

remaining sectors over the month showed gains, for the most part, with the exceptions of wholesale trade and information, which showed losses of 100 jobs, each, since April. Government employment was unchanged from April to May. The 9,700-job gain was a bit higher than expected between these two months though it is not surprising given the fact that May (and June) are typically the calendar year's largest job gaining months. June's monthly job figures could top the May job increase.

Compared to May 2004, the metro area job count is higher by 12,500 jobs on a net basis (+1.5%). This is the eleventh consecutive month that the four-county area has posted an annual job gain. At this moment, construction employment is the quickest growing industry having increased its employment by about nine percent compared to last May. This growth rate is representative of 3,000 more jobs in this sector. Professional and business services employment has grown close to seven percent adding 7,200 jobs, annually. Education and health services employment gained 3,500 jobs over the year with about 60 percent of this job gain in the health services portion of this sector. Manufacturing has still

maintained employment growth with 700 more jobs than it had in May 2004.

There were a number of industries that have declined in employment compared to May 2004. Retail trade shows 1,600 fewer jobs. Financial activities shows 1,200 fewer jobs. And total government employment is less 1,000 jobs, annually. Information employment tallied 300 fewer jobs compared to last May.

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